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SUBJECT: SEVENTH ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)
REPORT

REF: A. STATE 202745 B. 04 SEOUL 4843 C. 05 SEOUL 5240
[1](#)D. 05 SEOUL 3880 E. 06 SEOUL 689 F. 06 SEOUL 1072
[1](#)G. 06 SEOUL 4306 H. 06 SEOUL 4340 I. 04 SEOUL 6235
[1](#)J. 06 SEOUL 1035 K. 06 SEOUL 4001 L. 05 SEOUL 5330

[1](#)1. (U) Post's submission for the seventh annual
Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report follows.
Responses are keyed to questions in Ref A.

SUMMARY

[1](#)2. (SBU) The ROKG continued to make efforts to
fight trafficking in persons during the April 2006
to March 2007 reporting period. Government efforts
to educate the public and promote compliance with
the 2004 Anti-Prostitution/Anti-Trafficking Laws
(Ref B) helped raise awareness of prostitution and
trafficking as a crime (Ref C, D). Ministry of
Gender Equality and Family's (MOGEF) financial
support for NGOs helped further the development of a
legal and social infrastructure for victims of the
sex industry. Local law enforcement agencies and
Embassy officials cooperated closely in ongoing
investigations of visa brokers connected with
international trafficking. Government and NGOs
devoted substantial time and resources to anti-
prostitution and anti-trafficking programs. In
paragraph 53 below, we highlight the Ministry of
Labor's Employment Permit System (EPS) designed to
protect migrant workers in Korea for consideration
as an international best practice.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Despite progress, the ROK remained a
source, transit and destination country for

trafficking in persons. The trafficking of Korean women to the United States and elsewhere for sexual purposes remained a serious problem. Labor trafficking also posed a formidable challenge to the ROKG. END SUMMARY.

PARAGRAPH 27: OVERVIEW OF ROK ACTIVITIES

¶4. (SBU) A. The ROK was a source, transit, and destination country for women trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Precise numbers of trafficking victims remained unavailable. NGOs and other observers continued to believe that the number of Korean sex workers was substantial. Prostitution occurred in a variety of settings, including glass-front brothels, karaoke rooms, massage parlors, and private night clubs ("room salons"). The government reported that, as of May 2006, red-light districts numbered 1,097, compared to 1,679 in September 2004. However, some observers report that prostitution activity may have shifted to more discreet settings, including residential neighborhoods. Also, solicitation increasingly took place on-line or through cellular-phone text-messaging services.

¶5. (SBU) B. While women in the ROK sex industry were overwhelmingly Korean, NGOs believed that several thousand foreign women from Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Thailand, and other countries in Southeast Asia were also

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involved. Observers told us that foreign women were trafficked to the ROK through employment agencies, travel companies, and international marriage brokers. The ROK also issued E-6 visas ("entertainer visas") to foreign entertainers to come for work in Korea. Historically, many E-6 visa recipients had fallen victim to trafficking upon their arrival in Korea. Although the ROKG had dramatically reduced the levels of E-6 visas due to these concerns, in 2005 they issued 4,759 visas, 2,381 to Philippine nationals alone. (NOTE: Foreign women have historically worked in neighborhoods surrounding U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) base camps. USFK continued to enforce its zero-tolerance policy toward prostitution and other measures to fight prostitution and human trafficking. During the reporting period, the KNPA agreed to accompany USFK "Courtesy Patrols" in all regions in Korea to provide local law enforcement support to USFK in order to question and detain any American soldier or civilian employee suspected of purchasing sex from a prostitute. Many clubs are changing the nature of their trafficking from prostitution to debt bondage requiring the foreign women to sell drinks to soldiers and other patrons. END NOTE.).

¶6. (SBU) B. (Cont.) Traffickers used debt bondage and threats of exposure to ensure compliance. Victims accumulated debt as traffickers encouraged them to borrow money for clothes, makeup, accessories or rent. Victims accumulated further debt through penalties for being late to work, being sick, or committing other alleged infractions of work rules. Some victims reported that they were approached by friends or acquaintances and promised easy and lucrative incomes. Others reported that they approached employment agents who placed them in cafes or other establishments where they were compelled to provide sexual services. Korean victims were predominantly young women in difficult economic or social situations, often characterized by family violence or broken families.

International victims were predominantly young women from rural areas of Southeast Asia who were looking for economic or marriage opportunities in Korea.

¶17. (SBU) B. (Cont.) Korean women were trafficked to the United States, sometimes via Canada (where Korean nationals may travel without a visa) or Mexico. They also entered the United States on non-immigrant visas, sometimes issued on the basis of false documents. Korean women were also trafficked to Japan, Hong Kong, Guam, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Western Europe. Several NGOs speculated that the trafficking of Korean women overseas may have increased since the enactment of the 2004 legislation.

¶18. (SBU) B. (Cont.) Among the victims trafficked to the United States with non-immigrant visas, a growing number appeared to be traveling on student visas. Post's Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU), working in cooperation with local authorities, uncovered a ring of fraudulent-document producers and visa brokers who worked in the U.S., Korea and possibly other Asian countries (Ref E). The brokers assisted poorly qualified applicants to obtain real I-20 forms and fraudulent Korean university diplomas and

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transcripts. Upon arrival in the U.S., organizers forced some Korean women to work in the sex industry as strippers, prostitutes, or masseuses. To date, there have been nine arrests of visa brokers as a result of this ongoing investigation. In total, FPU reported a total of 28 visa brokers/document forgers were arrested last year, an increase of 33 percent from 2005 (Refs F, G, H).

¶19. (SBU) B. (Cont.) The National Assembly, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF), the MOJ, the Korean National Police, and local police in a number of jurisdictions demonstrated the political will to address trafficking in persons. We look forward to improved cooperation from the MOL as they give more attention to the labor aspects of trafficking in persons. In November 2004, the MOJ at Embassy Seoul's request initiated a Trilateral Working Group (TWG) to address in quarterly meetings the trafficking of Korean women from the ROK into the U.S. through Canada (Ref I). During the last year, the MOJ convened the TWG meeting twice, once in late March (Ref J) and once in November (Ref K). During the meeting in November, the MOJ announced the formation of a joint law-enforcement task force that will work specifically on visa fraud and human trafficking. Local USG law enforcement contacts reported an increase in information sharing and cooperation with the ROKG since the announcement.

¶10. (SBU) C. The government's main limitation remained societal attitudes regarding prostitution. While attitudes were changing, many Koreans still regarded prostitution as a customary part of business and social relations. Further, some sex workers argued that they had a right to choose their vocation, even if it was prostitution. The ROKG devoted substantial resources to its anti-prostitution and anti-trafficking efforts. In 2006, the government spent 18.5 billion won (USD 18,950,000) on financial aid to victims and support centers. Corruption was not reported to be a major problem.

¶11. (U) D. The MOGEF engaged in efforts to monitor its anti-trafficking programs and periodically made available its assessments. In April, the MOGEF released a comprehensive plan designed to integrate

international brides and mixed-race citizens into Korean culture more effectively. Included in the plan was an acknowledgement of concerns about marriage brokers and suggested regulations that the National Assembly could apply to these brokers. The plan also included a number of provisions for services and support for international brides and mixed-race citizens.

PARAGRAPH 28: PREVENTION

¶12. (U) A. In 2006, the ROK acknowledged that trafficking was a problem to the extent that foreign women may be trafficked to areas surrounding military camps and Korean women to the U.S. The MOL has yet to acknowledge trafficking concerns in the labor force, especially among foreign workers. The MOL reported that over 1,800 migrant workers filed

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claims of delayed payment totaling 4.5 billion won (USD 4.6 million), although the actual number of employers who withheld payment was likely much higher. Noting that there are an estimated 190,000 illegal migrant workers in Korea, the UN Special Envoy on Human Rights of Migrants said it was likely that many of these workers human rights were not fully protected given their illegal status in the country. During the parliamentary audit in October, over 81 percent of foreign workers were found to have been suffering from delayed payments, excessive working hours, dangerous working conditions or physical assault from employers.

¶13. (U) B. The following government agencies were involved in anti-trafficking efforts: Ministry of Justice; Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office; Korean National Police Agency (KNPA); Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF); Ministry of Labor; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Culture and Tourism; Maritime Police Administration; and, the National Information Agency.

¶14. (U) C. The MOGEF managed a hotline that provided English, Russian and Chinese interpretation services and facilitated social, legal and medical assistance for victims. The MOGEF carried out a widespread public information campaign against prostitution, placing 6,380 posters in 915 subway and train stations in major cities. The MOGEF coordinated a media campaign that included seminars and movie and photo viewings to highlight the second anniversary of the country's anti-prostitution/anti-trafficking laws. The KNPA distributed educational material to Korean and foreign women working in entertainment venues on their rights and how to report any abuses.

¶15. (U) D. The MOGEF sponsored various occupational training and employment support programs for women. The government also provided women entrepreneurs with grants and low interest loans. In addition, election laws provided that in National Assembly elections, 50 percent of each party's proportional representatives and 30 percent of each party's geographic representatives must be women. In March 2005, the National Assembly eliminated the "hojuje," a household registration system that made women legally subordinate to the male family head.

¶16. (U) D. (Cont.) To help reduce the demand for prostitution and human trafficking, the MOJ's Probation and Parole Division created a "John

School" to educate men about the hidden costs of prostitution (Ref L). Last year alone, over eleven thousand men participated in the program, which was a mandatory eight-hour class for first offenders arrested for purchasing, or attempting to purchase, sex. The curriculum included testimony from trafficking victims, HIV/AIDS awareness, and other social and health information. The government also targeted military servicemen and reserve forces with an anti-prostitution campaign.

¶17. (U) E. During the reporting period, the MOGEF co-sponsored seminars with NGOs in four major metropolitan areas. The government also continued

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to appoint an Ambassador-at-large for Women's Rights who worked extensively on human trafficking issues with civil society, NGOs and representatives from other countries. The Ambassador was appointed for a one year term by the MOFAT. (NOTE: See paragraph 52 for more information about the current Ambassador. END NOTE.).

¶18. (U) F. The ROKG adequately monitored its borders. Addressing a problem noted in previous TIP reports, the government took measures to assert law enforcement jurisdiction in the international transit lounge of Incheon International Airport. During the reporting period, immigration authorities at Incheon intercepted 3,829 persons suspected of traveling with fraudulent documents.

¶19. (U) G. Fourteen government ministries coordinated their anti-trafficking efforts through a task force that met twice during the reporting period. The government, NGOs and police also have joint consultative bodies in 12 regions to further coordinate local efforts. In addition, the Korea Independent Commission Against Corruption (KICAC) worked to eliminate corruption in the government and private sector.

¶20. (SBU) H. In 2003, the government created a Planning Unit on the Prevention of Prostitution. Its 12 members included government officials, three academics, one clergyman, five NGO representatives and one legal adviser. In March 2004, the Planning Unit created a Master Plan on the Prevention of Prostitution. The 2004 Anti-Prostitution/Anti-Trafficking Laws were a main component of this plan.

PARAGRAPH 29: INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

¶21. (U) A. In September 2004, the ROKG implemented legislation that specifically prohibited trafficking in persons and established a network of support resources for victims. The 2004 "Act on the Punishment of Intermediating in the Sex Trade and Associated Acts," provided for the punishment of human trafficking for the purpose of the sex-trade and authorized the seizure of money and property acquired through trafficking. The law prohibited the sex-trade; intermediating in the sex-trade; human trafficking for the purpose of the sex-trade; employing and recruiting others for the purpose of selling sex, or introducing and intermediating work with the knowledge that sex is traded; and advertising for activities or an agency where the sex-trade is carried out. The law provided that sex-trade victims would not be subject to punishment and would also be entitled to certain procedural safeguards, such as closed trials. "Victims" under

this law were persons forced to sell sex by means of deceptive schemes, force or drug use. Juveniles, persons with serious disabilities and persons trafficked for the purposes of the sex-trade were also deemed victims. Further, monetary claims of traffickers against victims were invalidated regardless of the form or the pretext of the contract.

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¶22. (U) A. (Cont.) Provisions of the Criminal Act and the Special Criminal Act could also be used to prosecute crimes related to trafficking in persons. For example:

-- Kidnapping minors by force or deception was illegal under Criminal Act Article 287 on Kidnapping of a Minor and was punishable by imprisonment of up to ten years;

-- Abuse of a person under one's protection or supervision was illegal under Criminal Act Article 273 on Cruelty and was punishable by imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of up to five million won (USD 5,119). A person who delivered a child under sixteen years of age who was under his protection or supervision to a proprietor or agent who would employ the child in work that was dangerous to life or limb was illegal under Criminal Act Article 274 on Hard Labor by a Child and was punishable by imprisonment of up to five years;

-- Kidnapping a person by force or deception for the purpose of gain, transportation to a foreign country or marriage was illegal under Criminal Act Article 288 and was punishable by imprisonment of no less than one year, Article 289 (penal servitude of no less than five years) and Article 291 (penal servitude of up to five years);

-- Falsely arresting or illegally confining another was illegal under Criminal Act Article 276 on False Arrest/Illegal Confinement and was punishable by imprisonment up to five years or a fine of up to seven million won (USD 7,167) and by Article 277 on Aggravated False Arrest/Aggravated Illegal Confinement which provided for penal servitude of up to seven years;

-- Intimidating another person was illegal under Criminal Act Article 283 on Intimidation and punishable by imprisonment of up to three years, or a fine of up to five million won (USD 5,119);

-- Using violence against another was punishable by Criminal Act Article 260 on Violence and was punishable by penal servitude for no more than two years or a fine of up to five million won (USD 5,119);

-- Inflicting bodily injury on another was illegal under Criminal Act Article 257 on Inflicting Bodily Injury and was punishable by imprisonment of up to seven years or a fine of up to 10 million won (USD 10,239);

¶23. (U) A. (Cont.) In addition, the Labor Standards Act prohibited forced labor, violence, and illegal exploitation and provided for penalties of imprisonment of up to five years or fines of up to 30 million won (USD 30,717). The Child Welfare Act and the Youth Protection Act prohibited child abuse and provided for imprisonment of up to ten years and fines of up to thirty million won (USD 30,717). The Immigration Control Act, the Passport Act, the

Employment Security Act, and the Act Relating to Protection for Dispatched Workers also had

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provisions that prohibited crimes related to human trafficking.

¶24. (U) B. In addition, penalties for human traffickers were as follows:

-- A person who forced another by violence or intimidation to sell sex was subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine of up to 100 million won (USD 102,385), or both;

-- A member of a criminal organization or group who forced another by violence or intimidation to sell sex was subject to imprisonment of at least one year;

-- a person who forced sex-trade on another by detention or by showing group force was subject to a prison term of at least three years;

-- a person who solicited sex-trade customers or intermediated sex-trade jobs was subject to imprisonment of up to three years, a fine of up to 30 million won (USD 30,717), or both;

-- a person who received compensation for intermediating in the sex-trade as a business or introduced or intermediated sex-selling jobs was subject to imprisonment of up to seven years, a fine of up to 70 million won (USD 71,668), or both;

-- a person who bought or sold sex services was subject to a prison term of up to one year, a fine of up to three million won (USD 3,071), or both.

¶25. (U) C. Punishment of Labor Trafficking Offenses: Article 46 of the Employment Security Act included penalties for a person who placed, recruited or supplied labor, by means of violence, threat, detention or unlawful restraint against mental or physical freedom. The prescribed penalties for trafficking for labor exploitation were imprisonment for up to five years and fines up to twenty million won (USD 20,476). Article 6 of the Labor Standards Act stipulated that an employer shall not force a worker to work against his own free will through the use of violence, intimidation, confinement or by any other means which unjustly restrict mental or physical freedom. Employers who violated this Article were subject to imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to thirty million won (USD 30,717).

¶26. (U) D. Under the Criminal Act, rape and indecent act by compulsion were punishable by imprisonment of three to ten years (Article 297, 298). Penalties for rape or sexual assault and for sex trafficking were roughly equivalent.

¶27. (U) E. Prostitution in the ROK was illegal. The 2004 "Act on the Punishment of Intermediating in the Sex Trade and Associated Acts" provided for the punishment of human trafficking for the purpose of the sex-trade and authorized the seizure of money and property acquired through trafficking. The law prohibited the sex-trade; intermediating in the sex-trade; human trafficking for the purpose of the sex-trade; employing and recruiting others for the

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purpose of selling sex, or introducing and intermediating work with the knowledge that sex is traded; and, advertising for activities or an agency where the sex-trade is carried out.

¶28. (U) E. (Cont.) Significantly, the 2004 law provided that sex-trade victims would not be subject to punishment and would also be entitled to certain procedural safeguards, such as closed trials. "Victims" under this law were persons forced to sell sex by means of deceptive schemes, force or drug use. Juveniles, persons with serious disabilities and persons trafficked into the sex-trade were also deemed victims.

¶29. (SBU) F. According to 2006 MOJ statistics, an anti-prostitution crackdown in the fall booked the names of over 13,000 individuals for investigation. Of these, 2,001 individuals were indicted. A similar crackdown was conducted in the summer months with comparable results. In addition to the prostitution crack downs, the MOJ reported that there were 190 trafficking-related arrests during the year. Of these 190 arrests, 36 were indicted and 25 received sentences. Of the 25 who received sentences, 2 were fines, 1 was dismissed, 1 was referred to juvenile proceedings, and 21 were sentenced to imprisonment. Of the 21 sentenced to imprisonment, 10 received suspended sentences. For those whose sentences were not suspended, the remaining 11, the sentence of imprisonment ranged from one year and three months to six years. The average sentence was three years.

¶30. (SBU) G. Police sources said transnational traffickers were based in the U.S., Korea, or elsewhere in Asia. Most sources said that the traffickers are individuals or small groups of people working with similarly small groups in other countries. There was increasing concern that some international marriage brokers were using fraud in their methods which may have put some women in a trafficking situation, despite the honest intentions of the marriage-seeking Korean husband. Many of these brokers failed to provide accurate information about either spouse, or a lack of qualified interpretation prevented the couples from making informed decisions when choosing a spouse. During a visit to Korea in December 2006, the UN Special Envoy on Human Rights of Migrants, Jorge Bustamante, said that the international marriage phenomenon in Korea had some of the characteristics of trafficking. The ROKG had no information on crime organizations involved in human trafficking cases and had no evidence that profits made by transnational crime organizations, travel agencies or marriage agencies were transferred to terrorist groups, guerrilla groups, judges or banks.

¶31. (SBU) H. The ROKG reported that it investigated cases of trafficking using, to the extent possible: emergency arrest, restraint, search and seizure, communication intercepts, location tracking via mobile phones, electronic monitoring of credit cards and undercover investigations. The MOL relied on its force of labor inspectors to look out for possible trafficking, but many employers at smaller companies

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still routinely withheld the passports of foreign workers as a matter of habit. During the reporting period, the MOL increased the number of inspections by 18 percent to a total of 17,700 inspections.

¶32. (U) I. The Supreme Prosecutor's Office (SPO)

provided training at the Legal Research and Training Institute to prosecutors focused on human trafficking or crimes of violence, police authorities who handled violent crimes, and others who worked on anti-trafficking operations. The KNPA also provided training on intelligence gathering and investigative methods through courses offered at the Police Comprehensive Academy and the National Scientific Criminal and Investigation Laboratory. Labor inspectors are trained to look for evidence of forced labor.

133. (SBU) J. The ROKG cooperated with other governments through the Act on International Judicial Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Extradition Act. Police cooperated with the Embassy during the course of international trafficking and visa-broker investigations. Following meetings in Washington in December, the KNPA announced that they will send police officers to work with the FBI in the United States on a task force to combat human trafficking from the ROK. The ROK also participated in international organized crime prevention seminars in Japan and Kazakhstan during the year.

134. (SBU) K. A criminal could be extradited to the U.S. and the other 21 signatory nations of the Extradition Act. Extradition to a non-signatory country was possible through a mutual guarantee. To date, no persons have been extradited for human trafficking.

135. (U) L. There was no evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking.

136. (U) M. There was no evidence of government involvement in trafficking.

137. (SBU) N. Some NGOs have expressed growing concern about Korean sex tourism to China, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Although prosecutors had the authority to bring extraterritorial charges of sex crimes against Korean nationals, no charges were reported.

138. (U) O. The ROK ratified ILO Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in March 2001; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in September 2000; and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, in December 2000. The ROK has not signed ILO Conventions 29 and 105 on forced labor.

PARAGRAPH 30: PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

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139. (U) A. The 2004 "Act on the Prevention of the Sex Trade and Protection of its Victims," authorized the establishment of assistance facilities and counseling centers that would help sex-trade victims reintegrate into society. In particular, the ROKG would have to provide support facilities for victims, including foreign victims, that would provide for room and board, counseling, medical support, and legal assistance. The law identified four types of facilities: (1) general assistance facilities, which provide board and housing for up to 18 months

and support the independence of sex-trade victims; (2) juvenile assistance facilities, which provide board and housing for up to one year and support the independence of juvenile sex-trade victims through school enrollment and education; (3) assistance facilities for foreign women, which provide board and housing for up to three months and support the victims' return home; and (4) self-support assistance centers, which provide job and technical training, employment information and other social adjustment services for sex-trade victims. Under the law, state and local governments are also authorized to establish counseling centers, which would also engage in the rescue of sex-trade victims. In 2006, there were 25 general shelters, 16 shelters for teenage victims, three shelters for foreign nationals, three rehabilitation shelters, five group homes and 27 counseling centers. The MOGEF also operated a Center for Women's Human Rights to provide overall coordination and assistance to trafficking prevention facilities.

¶40. (U) A. (Cont.) For foreign women, the Ministry of Justice had the authority to grant victims of trafficking either a G-1 visa ("others" visa category under the immigration law) or to suspend their departure until damage claims and redress of rights had been settled. Like ROK nationals, foreign women were eligible for board and lodging, professional counseling, legal and medical services.

¶41. (U) B. The ROKG financially supported NGOs that provided social, legal and medical services to trafficking and sex-trade victims. Victims in shelters were eligible to receive medical assistance in accordance with the Medical Expenses Act. Medical services not stipulated by the Medical Expenses Act were covered by various rehabilitation funds. During 2006, centers specifically designated for foreign victims recorded 102 cases of legal support, 130 cases of medical support, 1,282 cases of counseling support and 126 cases of educational support.

¶42. (U) C. If classified as a victim of the sex-trade, a person would be referred to the MOGEF-supported shelter or support facility. Persons classified not as victims but as willing participants in the sex-trade (and in violation of the law) would also be eligible for treatment and counseling.

¶43. (U) D. ROK law stipulated that victims of trafficking were to be treated as victims, not criminals. The law further specified that deportation orders for foreign victims of

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trafficking who reported a trafficking offense were to be suspended until the conclusion of the investigation or until their claims were redressed. The 2004 Anti-Prostitution/Anti-Trafficking Laws specifically define a trafficking victim as someone who is forced into sexual exploitation. Under existing labor laws, there was no specific definition of labor trafficking so the vast majority of ROK government, civil and even NGO groups did not consider forced labor to be a trafficking offense. This narrow definition of trafficking limited the attention and therefore action of the ROKG in the labor sector.

¶44. (U) E. The Act on the Punishment of Intermediating in Sex Trade and Associated Acts stipulated that monetary compensation should be given to those who reported crimes involving human

trafficking. The amount of money would be determined by the reporter's contribution to solving the case, financial damage suffered by the reporter because of the report, and whether the reporter was involved in the crime. The Crime Victims Support Division, which had branches at over 50 prosecutors' offices nationwide, supported victims by providing information on their cases, personal protection, and counseling services. The Division also helped victims take legal action.

¶45. (U) F. The Act on the Protection of Reporters and Associated Persons of Specific Crime stipulated that, when the court or other legal authorities investigated a victim in a human trafficking case, or put the victim on a witness stand, personal protection measures should be taken for the victim, and the victim could apply for related financial aid. The law also stipulated that the victim in a sex-trade case was free to leave the country according to her will. The government was not authorized to prevent a victim in a sex-trade case from leaving the country.

¶46. (U) F. (Cont.) The Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Specific Violent Crimes and the Act on the Protection of Reporters of Specific Crimes provided that when a victim in a human trafficking case reported a crime or testified in court, the victim's identity and related information could not be disclosed. The Act on the Punishment of Sexual Crimes and Protection of Victims Thereof protected the victim during prosecution and trial by prohibiting the disclosure of the victim's identity and allowing a closed-door hearing. According to the Act on the Punishment of Intermediating in Sex Trade and Associated Acts, when the court or the authorities questioned a victim, their representative could be present. The law also stated that, during the investigation, the victim was eligible to receive protection and guidance from counselors specializing in sex-trade victim counseling.

¶47. (U) G. The ROKG provided training programs for central and regional government officials in 2006. The training covered on-site investigation and protection of trafficking victims; trafficking prevention by developing ongoing relationships with NGOs; and trafficking prevention-related laws and

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policies. The training was delivered through four sessions with a total of 145 attendees. Separate training was given to the KNPA over two sessions. 99 employees of the KNPA attended these two sessions.

¶48. (U) G. (Cont.) The ROKG reported in 2006 that its embassies and consulates did not support victims of human trafficking, or NGOs that assisted trafficking victims.

¶49. (U) H. Repatriated nationals who were victims of trafficking were eligible for the same social, legal and medical support services available for domestic victims of trafficking.

¶50. (U) I. A variety of international organizations and NGOs worked with trafficking victims, including International Organization for Migration, the Asia Foundation, Korea Women's Associations United, Women Migrants Human Rights Center, Hansori House of Friends, the Jeon Jin Sang Social Welfare Center in Anyang, Magdalena House and Saewoomtuh for Prostituted Women. The NGOs provided information and counseling services, as well as

medical, legal, and social support.

PARAGRAPH 31: NOMINATION OF TIP HEROES

¶51. (U) Ms. Cho Young-sook currently works as the President of the Center for Women's Human Rights (CWHR) in Korea. The center's mission is to "eradicate sexual exploitation as a part of national efforts to achieve gender equality in Korean society." CWHR also develops programs for prostitution and trafficking victims' recovery and social reintegration and for advocacy of victims' human rights. A long-time activist for women's rights in Korea, Cho was one of the leading supporters of the comprehensive Anti-Prostitution/Anti-Trafficking Laws that were passed in 2004. Prior to becoming the President of CWHR, Cho served as the Secretary General of the Korea Women's Association United for over a decade. Ms. Cho was vetted through CLASS and has no hits.

¶52. (U) Ms. Kang Geum-shil served as the only female Minister of Justice in Korea's history from February 2003 to July 2004. It was during this period that Korea debated and eventually passed the sweeping Anti-Prostitution/Anti-Trafficking Laws that are the basis for Korea's efforts in these areas today. In addition to Ms. Kang's efforts to support the 2004 laws, she is currently serving her second term as Korea's Ambassador-at-large for Women's Human Rights. In this capacity, Ms. Kang is focusing her efforts on ensuring that the foreign brides increasingly coming to Korea are treated fairly and equally under the law and in society. Ms. Kang traveled to Vietnam to personally meet with NGOs to ensure that Vietnamese women interested in marrying Korean men were well informed and better prepared to adapt to a new life in Korea. By helping to educate foreign brides, Ms. Kang hopes to eliminate concerns of human trafficking related to international marriage in Korea. Ms. Kang was vetted through CLASS and has no hits.

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PARAGRAPH 32: NOMINATION OF BEST PRACTICE

¶53. (U) Started in 2005, the Employment Permit System (EPS) is a highly structured method for ROKG to utilize and protect foreign migrant workers for up to a three-year stay in Korea. Replacing the prior system known as the Employment Trainee System, EPS begins with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the sending country and Korea. Although the specific contents of the MOU are not public, it is said to include strict guidelines on how workers are recruited and dispatched to Korea. Under the prior trainee system, a third-party organization was responsible for the administration of the program which was fraught with high fees and corruption on the part of sending countries. Under EPS, sending governments are subjected to a high-level of public scrutiny and can be banned from the program if "irregularities" are reported. There are currently 10 countries participating in the program with another five set to join in 2007. Korea is planning to bring in over 100,000 foreign workers this year under the EPS program to complement and partially replace the nearly 150,000 workers already in the program. Upon arrival in Korea, foreign workers are given a three-day orientation that includes an explanation of workers' rights and Korean labor law.

The workers are also given contact information to report any concerns about labor or human rights violations. Along with EPS, the Ministry of Labor funds two well-staffed Migrant Workers Centers to support the large number of foreign workers, the second of which opened in December 2006. The centers provide a number of welfare services including free health and legal support in addition to quality-of-life services such as language and computer classes. The centers also staff a call center of bilingual counselors who take calls from migrant workers and help to resolve any complaints against employers in 12 different languages.

EMBASSY POINT OF CONTACT AND TIME REPORT

154. (SBU) Mission point of contact for TIP issues is Political Officer David Moyer, tel. 82-2-397-4158, fax 82-2-733-4791. In the drafting of this report, Embassy Seoul spent approximately 185 hours researching trafficking issues and coordinating with contacts. This total includes:

Ambassador: 1 hour
DCM: 1 hour
MC/POL: 1 hour
03-level POL: 2 hours
04-level POL: 176 hours
04-level CON: 4 hours (visa broker reports)

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